

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, ECOSOC, EGEN

SUBJECT: 69TH FAO COUNCIL - INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL
COMMODITY AGENCY

1. PURSUANT TO AGENDA ITEM 7, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL ERIC OJALA REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL JULY 14 THAT THE FAO SECRETARIAT HAD FORWARDED RESOLUTION 8/75, PASSED BY THE 18TH FAO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER 1975, TO UNCTAD FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE WORK OF UNCTAD IV. OJALA OBSERVED THAT UNCTAD ACTION REGARDING A COMMON FUND AND CALLING FOR A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS OF SPECIFIC COMMODITIES, INCLUDING FOODSTUFFS, PROVIDED ADEQUATE FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION 8/75. THIS CONCLUSION, WHICH EFFECTIVELY TERMINATED FURTHER FAO ACTION DIRECTLY RELATED TO STUDY OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY AGENCY, WAS ACCEPTED BY THE COUNCIL WITH ONLY MINIMAL DISCUSSION AND NO DISSENT.

2. RESOLUTION 8/75 HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONSIDER ON A PRIORITY BASIS THE PROPOSAL OF THE IRANIAN CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE (AGRICULTURE MINISTER ROUHANI) "FOR ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY AGENCY IN ORDER TO MANAGE THE PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF NECESSARY WORLD FOOD PRODUCTS, TAKING FULLY INTO ACCOUNT ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES, AND SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REGARD TO THE SIXTY-NINTH COUNCIL SESSION."

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3. RESOLUTION 8/75 WAS VAGUELY PHRASED, BUT ITS OMINOUS IMPLICATIONS HAD BEEN STRENUOUSLY OPPOSED DURING THE NOVEMBER CONFERENCE BY THE U.S. ALONG WITH SEVENTEEN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THAILAND, ALL OF WHICH ABSTAINED WHEN THE RESOLUTION WAS FORCED TO A CONFERENCE VOTE. VOLPE

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